13th August 1954]

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, may I know if betting on New York Cotton prizes is more remunerative than solving cross-word puzzles and if so, what is the comparative dividend paid in each ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" How does this arise out of the main question ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have no personal experience of either. If the hon. Member could communicate his experience, I am prepared to take it."

Handloom workers' strike in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar.

* 1389 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to bring about a settlement between the handloom workers and factory-owners of Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, in view of the strike situation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" On receipt of reports regarding the closure of the handloom factories in Chirakkal taluk, etc., the Commissioner of Labour was asked to take up conciliation. The Commissioner of Labour who enquired into the matter advised the workers to resume work. The workers accordingly resumed work. It is since reported that all the factories that had to be closed due to strike have re-opened."

Restoration of the wage-cut to the handloom weavers of Chirakkal taluk, Malabar.

* 1390 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the handloom weavers of Chirakkal taluk, Malabar district, regarding wage-cut; and

(b) the steps the Government have taken to restore the wage-cut?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) As it is open to the workers to seek redress by filing complaints for short payment under the Payment of Wages Act or under section 33-A of the Industrial Disputes Act, no interference on the part of the Government was considered necessary."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, are Government aware of the fact that even now the factory-owners are taking forcible signatures from the workers consenting to reduction of wages of the workers? "